



THE MORNING NEWS

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Official signing of contract for new annex to Government House



Glenn Thode and Aruba Prime Minister Eman



Minister Sevinger and AIB Managing Director Friendsel Giel

Prime Minister Mike Eman, Minister of Infrastructure, Integration and Environment, Oslin (Benny) Sevinger and the three principal parties involved in the financing and restoration of Aruba's Government House, with the addition of a new annex, official signed the contract to commence work yesterday morning. The first brick will be laid on Thursday, September 1, 2011.

The first phase of this particular project will include a small building adjacent to the parliament across from Fort Zoutman and the building which originally housed the Aruba Tourist Authority, directly across from the main entrance to Renaissance Resort.

Fondo Desaroyo Aruba, FDA, will provide the funding. The plan includes restoration of other landmark buildings in the streets adjacent to Ministers' offices, and closing some streets to make them a pedestrian walk with a main plaza and attractive eateries.

Joining Prime Minister Eman and Minister Sevinger for the signing were Lieutenant-Governor of Bonaire, Glenn Thodé, a board member of FDA, Managing Director of Aruba Investment Bank, AIB, Friendsel Giel, which manages the funds, and Directeur of Albo Aruba N.V., Folkert G. van der Woude.

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Minister of Tourism and concerns meet with representatives of Fitch

ORANJESTAD -- Last Friday Aruba's minister of tourism, Otmar Oduber met with representatives of Fitch. The minister considered it appropriate to be present at the meeting in view of the importance that the Fitch Rating has for Aruba. Oduber explained that the Fitch Rating is especially important relative to the crisis in the world and espe-

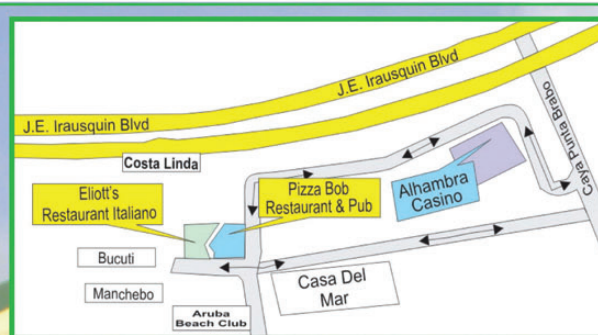
cially in the US, as this has an influence on our tourism.

In addition to the office of the Minister of Tourism, the Aruba Airport Authority and the Aruba Tourism Authority were also in attendance. They presented their expectations for this year, which happens to be rather impressive considering the 3% growth increase already noted. Currently that

figure has been doubled showing an increase of 6.2% of tourist arrivals.

There was some concern about the loss of airline seats when several airlines in the region reduced the number of carriers. By the end of last year and into the first part of this year we experienced a drop of 5% as a result.

Continued on page 4



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Kadhafi era 'over' as rebels seize most of Tripoli



People in Tajura, a suburb of Tripoli, celebrating in the early morning on August 22, 2011 after Libyan rebels surged into Tripoli in a final drive to oust leader Moamer Kadhafi.

TRIPOLI (AFP) - Libya's rebels Monday declared the "Kadhafi era" over after taking control of most of Tripoli as US President Barack Obama called for "an inclusive transition" in the war-torn country.

Obama pressed Libya's veteran strongman Moamer Kadhafi, who has refused to surrender, to "explicitly" give up power and warned exuberant rebels that their struggles were "not over yet."

Looking beyond Kadhafi's iron-fisted reign, he vowed that Washington will be "a friend and a partner" and urged

"an inclusive transition that leads to a democratic Libya."

"The situation is still very fluid. There remains a degree of uncertainty, and there are still regime elements who pose a threat," Obama warned in a hastily arranged public appearance on as he vacationed at Martha's Vineyard.

The White House, meanwhile, said it had "no evidence" that Kadhafi had left Tripoli. "That is the best information that we have," spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters. "There's no evidence to indicate that he's left."

World leaders hailed the rebels' dramatic rout on Sunday of loyalist forces in Tripoli, as Libyans around the world celebrated his imminent downfall.

"The Kadhafi era is over," rebel chief Mustafa Abdel Jalil told a news conference in Benghazi, eastern Libya.

But Abdel Jalil also warned that he could quit as head of the rebel National Transitional Council (NTC) if he loses control of the revolution, amid possible revenge acts by insurgents.

Abdel Jalil said he hoped Kadhafi, who faces an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court for alleged crimes against humanity, would be "captured alive so that he will be given a fair trial."

He thanked NATO for its military support, while cautioning that "the real moment of victory is when Kadhafi is captured" and acknowledged the whole of Tripoli was not under rebel control.

In another military setback for Kadhafi, his forces quit the frontlines of the eastern oil

town of Brega yesterday and were fleeing west towards the strongman's hometown of Sirte, a rebel military spokesman said.

Abdel Jalil, a former justice minister who chairs the NTC, called upon "our revolutionaries to respect the law and to let justice take its course," rather than launch revenge attacks.

Rebel military spokesman Mohammed Zawiwa told AFP the rebels seized control Monday of the state broadcaster in Tripoli.

Elsewhere in Tripoli, rebel fighters packed in trucks, cars and pickups streamed during the day from liberated areas of western Libya towards the symbolic Green Square in the heart of the city, brandishing arms.

Many of the rebels were waving flags of the revolution as they appeared to be heading to the square and then onwards to join rebels trying to snuff out the last pockets of resistance, especially outside Kad-

hafi's Bab al-Azizya compound in Tripoli.

Rebel chief Abdel Jalil said it was difficult to tell whether Kadhafi has fled the country or remained within, pointing out that he could still be at his compound.

Mohammed Kadhafi, a son of Kadhafi, has escaped after having been arrested by rebels in Tripoli, a senior rebel source told AFP yesterday.

Mohammed Kadhafi, Kadhafi's eldest son, and brother Seif al-Islam, who was regarded as the veteran leader's intended successor, were arrested on Sunday as rebels seized control of large swathes of Tripoli.

Moamar Kadhafi self has not been seen in public for weeks.

Hundreds of jubilant Libyans meanwhile converged on their embassies and consulates in Europe and elsewhere to raise the rebel flag and tear down the symbols of Kadhafi's 42-year rule.

Hurricane Irene surges toward Hispaniola

SANTO DOMINGO (AFP) - Hurricane Irene barreled toward Haiti and the Dominican Republic yesterday, after forcing Oscar-winning actress Kate Winslet and Richard Branson's relatives to flee the British tycoon's Caribbean island home.

Winslet carried Branson's 90-year-old mother Eve out of The Great House on Necker Island, a territory in the British Virgin Islands that the entrepreneur bought in the early 1980s, as a blaze sparked by lightning took hold in the early morning hours.

"She swept her up into her arms and got them out of the house as fast as possible," Branson, who heads the Virgin Group conglomerate, told Britain's ITV News.

The actress said, according to Branson, "it's like being in a film set where you're waiting for the words 'cut' but they just don't come." All escaped unharmed.

Irene reached hurricane strength as it passed over

Puerto Rico in the early morning hours, and at 1800 GMT packed winds of 130 kilometers (80 miles) per hour, the Miami-based US National Hurricane Center said.

In Puerto Rico, the first hurricane of the 2011 Atlantic season unleashed torrential rains and powerful gusts that downed trees and caused flooding in residential areas, leaving 800,000 people without electricity, 118,000 without water and over 770 others in shelters.

Irene late yesterday passed just north of Hispaniola, the island shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

It was forecast to next head near or over the Turks and Caicos Islands and the southeastern Bahamas today, before passing near the Central Bahamas early tomorrow.

Irene was expected to strengthen further as it moves west-northwest at around 21 kilometers (13 miles) an hour, according to the NHC.

US aid implicated in illegal activity in Colombia: report

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US security aid and even officials may have been linked to illegal actions by the Colombian government in the guise of fighting

terrorism and drug smuggling, The Washington Post said late Saturday.

US money, equipment and training supplied to elite units of the Colombian intelligence service were used to carry out spying operations and smear campaigns against Supreme Court justices, former president Alvaro Uribe's political opponents and civil society groups, it said.

The newspaper cited law enforcement documents and interviews with prosecutors.

Six former high-ranking officials of the Colombian Department of Administrative Security (DAS) have already confessed to crimes, and more than a dozen other agency operatives are on trial.

The Uribe government wanted to "neutralize" the Supreme Court because its magistrates were undermining ties between presidential allies in the Colombian congress and right-wing paramilitary groups, the report said.

Colombian prosecutors say the intelligence agency was directed by the president's office to collect the banking records

of magistrates, follow their families, bug their offices and analyze their court rulings, The Post noted.

"All the activity mounted against us -- following us, intercepting our telephones -- had one central purpose, to intimidate us," the paper quoted Ivan Velasquez, the court's lead investigative magistrate, as saying.

Some of those charged or under investigation have described the importance of US intelligence resources and guidance, and say they regularly briefed embassy "liaison" officials on their intelligence-gathering activities, The Post said.

"We were organized through the American Embassy," William Romero, who ran the DAS's network of informants and oversaw infiltration of the Supreme Court, told the paper.

Like many of the top DAS officials, he received CIA training, the report said, assing that some were given scholarships to complete education in intelligence-gathering at US universities.

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Printed by
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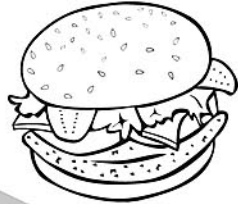
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Police and Red Cross comb eastern tip of Aruba for signs of missing woman



Laying out search parameter

One week after an island judge granted that "person of interest" in the disappearance of Maryland woman, Robyn Gardener, Gary Giordano, remain in police custody for an additional 16 days, a team consisting of Police Academy students and instructors, joined by Red Cross specialist began a systematic search of areas adjacent to Baby Beach.

A search team of approximately 40 stretched out over the scrub-laden shoreline beginning at Seroe Colorado, in the former Lago Colony, and examined the area along the northeastern shore as far as the Vader Piet Windmill

Farm, beginning at 8:00 AM yesterday morning. It was hard going over the landscape from the colony road to



The team starts setting up

the shoreline consisting almost entirely of hard, sharp coral rock.

Because of storm condition further north in the Caribbean, Aruba's usual cooling breezes were absent and searchers walked the area in grueling heat reaching temperatures of nearly 40 degrees Celsius, (104 Fahrenheit) Searchers are looking for any signs that Robyn Gardner was not lost at sea while snorkeling on August 2, as Giordano claims, or any evidence which may assist in making a case to remand him over for trial, or at least continue his incarceration while the police investigate further. The Prosecutor's office must



Police and Red Cross work their way through scrub

show due cause when he comes up before the judge again at the end of the 16 days.

Island officials became suspicious of Mr. Giordano's story of Miss Gardener's being swept out to sea, as similar weather conditions prevailed on August 2, and the usual treacherous wave action outside the breakwater at Baby Beach was not present the afternoon he claimed they went snorkeling.

Continued on page 5

Official signing of contract for new annex to Government House

Continued from page 1



Architects Leo Ponson and Orlando Hoevertz

Albo Aruba N.V. landed the construction contract for this first phase with a bid of 18,050,000 Aruban florins, (\$10,314,285 U.S.)

A large part of this project will be the thorough refurbishment of Aruba's Government House. The contemporary design of the new annex is from local architects Leo Ponson and Orlando Hoevertz, which will be round and was inspired, they report, "by the shape of a coconut." It will consist of 4 floors and contain the offices of nine ministries with auxiliary services. This will be at the rear of the present structure, in what is now a parking lot. The annex has been designed to be "completely green," with built in technol-

ogy to harness solar and wind power as well as recirculation of waste water and other measures.

Parties to the this project expressed they are united in their opinion that this beautification project for Aruba's historical section will enhance the value not only materially, but in the hearts and minds of island residents and visitors; it is a core part of the administration's plan for all of Aruba, and a great deal of work has already commenced on Oranjestad's main street and outlying areas, which will prove beneficial to all vendors and residents of the capital.

by Rosalie Klein

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Minister of Tourism...

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However, at the moment we are back to where we were last year. Aruba was able to present to the Fitch group confirmation from both North and South American airlines the number of additional seats; putting us in a very competitive position. Hence, the outlook for the end of this year as well as for 2012 looks extremely good, according to Otmar Oduber.

The Minister explained that the Fitch group measures the management of the country. They will meet with various ministers and institutions on the island to ascertain what the prognosis is of the financial situation of Aruba.

The Fitch Rating is especially important when, for example, you want to make an external loan such as the government does from time to time. This rating helps to determine what type of loan interest you can get. It is also important with respect to the confidence it creates in those wanting to invest in Aruba.

The government is convinced that the positive tourism figures, the investments being made by the government, the economic growth of about 10% for 2011 all together will certainly reflect the major advances we have made and these will be considered by Fitch in their evaluation. We will wait for their report of the results of their finding, says Otmar Oduber.

The weekly Bon Bini Festival is tonight

The weekly Bon Bini Festival takes place tonight at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminastraat. Come mingle with the locals and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture.

This week the festival will feature the traditional Aruba caha di orgel by Crystal, folkloric music by Tipico Alegre, dance performance by Youth in Action, trio performance by The Heart Breakers, poem declaimed by Laura Kock, soloist Quincy Hasham and



steelpan band The New Generation.



During the festival there will be local food, sweets and traditional local arts and crafts on sale.

Arubus has regular busses from all hotels areas to Oranjestad Central Terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is \$2.30. The festival is from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Entrance fee is \$3.

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Census Bureau on its way to modernization



ORANJESTAD -- The government is intent on making the Aruba Census Bureau a modern and much more professional institution. Not only should there be change in the way employees work, but also in the culture and mentality of everyone in this Bureau. The final goal is to have a truly professional Census Bureau, according to the government.

Last week the first step toward change in the way that clients are attended by the Census people. Minister Dowers, standing in for an ill Prime Minister, explained to the Census employees how that perception is an important aspect, although reality might be different.

The government is convinced that at the end of the changes they will be making, the perception that the public has of the Census Bureau will be different when they experience for themselves all the changes that will have been made. To illustrate this point,

the Minister showed the employees a video of the now famous Susan Boyle in the "Britain's Got Talent" show. This humble housewife at the moment she walked onto the stage for the first time, she raised many eyebrows and the audience's perception was rather negative to say the least. However, that perception changed the moment she opened her mouth to sing. This, according to Arthur Dowers, is what the public in Aruba will experience the moment they walk into the changed Census Bureau.

The Director of the Census Bureau, Sharline Luydens, explained that the change will not be the product and the service alone, but especially the human aspect. They will be placing much emphasis on the human aspect of the functioning of the Bureau. Many lectures and other courses will be conducted towards this goal.

Last week's course was the first of such courses offered to employees with the objective

of bringing about a change of culture and mentality in order to offer better service to the public. According to Sharline Luydens, that course was the "laying of the first stone." The employees at first were rather nervous as this was something totally new for them. The reaction of the employees following the course was simply fantastic, they each expressed their satisfaction.

The change process actually began in 2009 and went through some difficult times. There is the need for some serious infra-structural changes. The system of processing passports has been changed and there are now three areas where customers can be served. They have implemented a separation in various job functions, which occasioned the need to employ additional workers to comply with legal procedures. The Census Bureau is a very important and sensitive data bank of information for the government. The information in this Bureau must be reliable and accurate.

Sharline Luydens explained that there is still work to be done on repairing the infrastructure (ICT), they need more work space (new building), etc. A new building has been chosen. They will be relocated to the old DOW building. That building, however, has to be completely renovated and adapted to the needs of the Census Bureau. In the future, clients should be able to obtain documents, etc. online when the Bureau functions as a truly modern entity.

Was there fraud – a penal investigation will determine this

ORANJESTAD -- In a recent court case, Carl Giel, former interim Director of the Department of Labor was declared guilty of administrative corruption and wrong doings in the execution of his duties as a high government official and consequently was fired from his post and from the civil corps. The Minister of Tourism and Labor in a statement declared that the Judge concurred with the government's decision to fire Carl Giel.

Mr. Giel, according to the Minister has made declarations following the court verdict that are totally unfounded. It was proven in court that Giel committed serious fraudulent acts with respect to the requests for job permits. He was proven to have deliberately changed permits that had been given a negative decision into positive decisions contrary to all the researched evidence for the negative decision. This, according to the Minister of Labor is administrative corruption and appears to be linked to fraud.

Contrary to the declaration by Giel, who stated that the Judge dismissed 10 of the 12 arguments for dismissal presented by the government, the Judge based his decision on only 2 of the arguments. The Judge felt that just 2 of the arguments were sufficient cause for him to concur with the government to fire Giel. Based on 2 of the arguments, the conclusion was drawn that Giel committed administrative corruption and was not fit to continue as a government official.

The reports concerning Giel's conduct as a superior were prepared and written by his own colleagues at the department which proved how he would change legal decisions from negative to positive. The Director of the Department of Labor has also submitted a legal complaint against Carl



Carl Giel

Giel, because he is of the opinion that there should be an investigation to ascertain whether there was money received for the favors granted by Giel, what type of fraud was committed and how far the fraud went for the changing of legal negative decisions to positive decisions for job permits.

The Minister is convinced that only a legal investigation would be able to determine this.

Contrary to Giel's statements, Oduber emphatically refuted any notion that what transpired between the government and Giel is political persecution. No such thing, said Oduber! What transpired originally which became the reason for an investigation was the numerous proofs of changed advice which was brought to the attention of the Department of Labor during 2009. And, what's more Giel himself had declared that the changes from negative to positive were all effected with the knowledge of the former Minister of Labor. Hence, in essence he created his own downfall, and this had nothing to do with politics!

Police and Red Cross comb ...

Continued from page 3

After repeated questioning, Mr. Giordano hired island lawyer Michael Lopez; when someone called from Aruba Immigration reporting Mr. Giordano was attempting to leave the island earlier than planned and travel to an alternate destination, the police stopped him and placed him in custody.

After 7 hours, nothing was reported found during yester-

day morning's search; Solicitor General Taco Stein stated there were no immediate plans to continue searching. He commented that investigators will pursue other leads, including the information provided by a witness who say Gardner and Giordano together while on Aruba.

by Rosalie Klein



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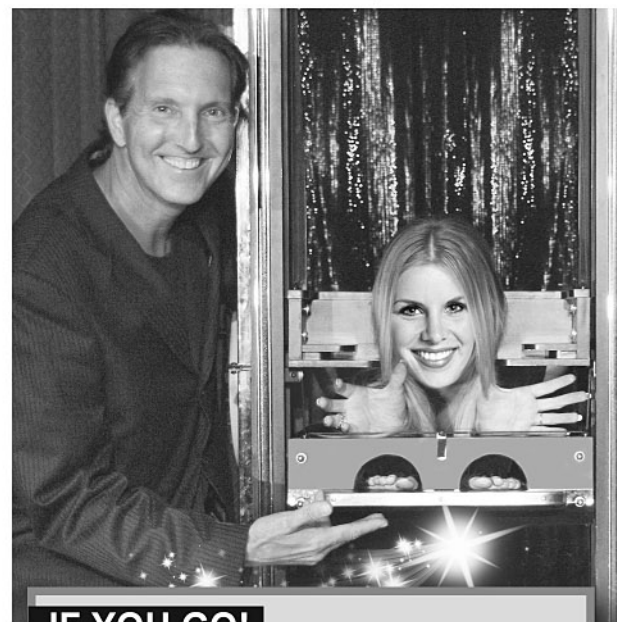
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Sci-Tech

Locals must be more present in tsunami preparedness: experts



STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Local communities should be more involved in outlining measures to prepare for and react to future tsunamis, experts who have studied the March 11 disaster in Japan told a conference here Monday.

"The local community design is crucial" when it comes to responding to the consequences of tsunamis, Yoshiyuki Kawazoe, an industrial science professor at Tokyo University, told a seminar at the World Water Week conference in Stockholm.

On March 11 this year, as large swaths of northeastern Japan were being devastated by giant earthquakes and

tsunamis, the village of Yoshihama was spared, suffering not a single death, largely thanks to local urban planning, he said.

In Yoshihama, "the residence areas were built outside of flooding areas. The local land use planning made it so that no one was living behind the tide embankment," Kawazoe explained, pointing out that people there had decided "they could accept damages to the rice fields but not to the residence areas".

Lessons should be learned from Yoshiyuki, he said, insisting "we need to rethink engineering after this specific disaster".

It should be "up to the local communities to decide how big future tide embankments have to be built," he said, pointing out that "the higher an embankment is the more expensive it is", so it should be "a question for the community to decide".

Fewer stars as universe runs low on gas: study

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australian scientists gazing billions of years back in time with powerful radio telescopes on Monday warned that the universe's lights -- the stars -- were quite literally running out of gas.

Robert Braun, astronomy and space chief at Australia's government science agency CSIRO, said about one-third of the molecular gas vital for the formation of new stars had been used up and the skies were slowly dimming.

Braun's team mapped the light densities of galaxies about five billion light years from Earth and compared them with today's "local universe" to see how much gas they contained and rates at which new stars were born.

"We've seen a decline in the amount of stars being formed by more than a factor of 10, probably closer to 20 or even 30," said Braun of his research, due to be published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

"It turns out that these galaxies actually had 10 times more gas with which to form the stars than they do today. We just aren't seeing as much gas fall in to form the new stars," he told AFP.

The key to the dwindling number of stars was a shift in the universe's dominant forces about eight billion years ago -- the reasons for which remain a mystery -- which saw gravity overtaken by dark energy.

Essentially gravity's opposite, the repulsive force has seen the universe expand at exponential speeds in the past few billion years, pushing galaxies further from the "intergalactic medium" where they can refuel on gas.

"Gravity attracts but this dark energy, it seems, is a repulsive force so that things are flying apart at an ever-increasing rate," Braun told AFP.

"The gas that was once within reach can no longer be pulled in and as such the star

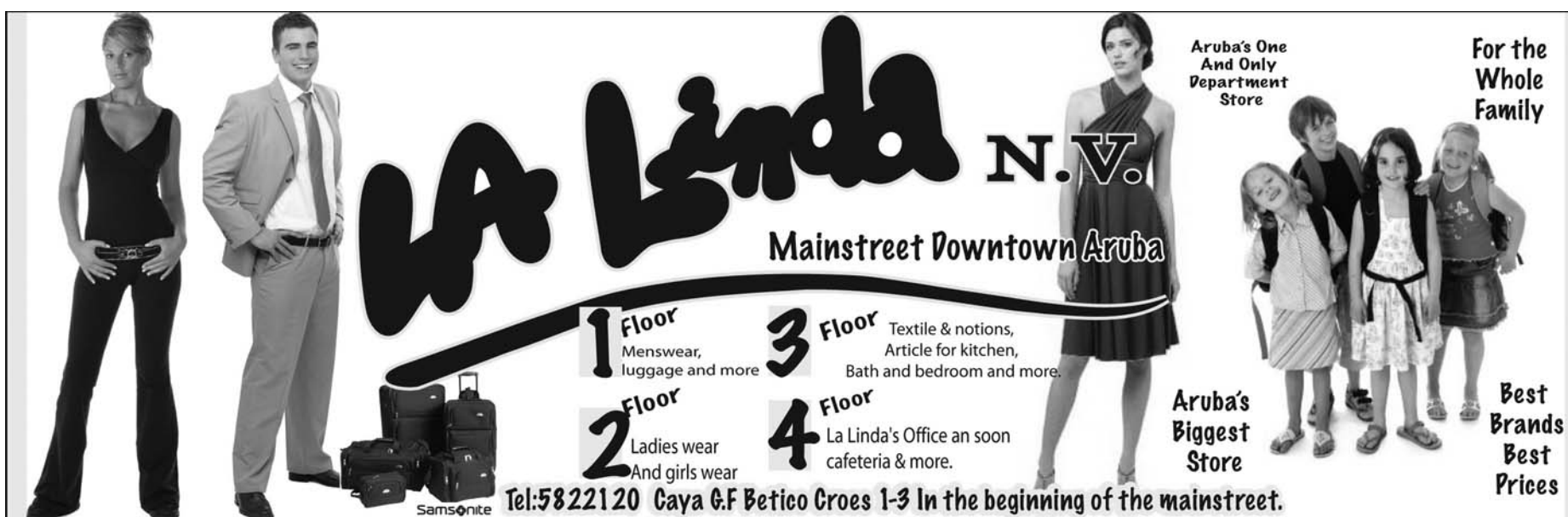
formation rate is declining rapidly and will continue to decline into the future."

A typical galaxy's star-making gas supplies last just 1-2 billion years.

The growing darkness was so incremental Braun said it would be impossible to notice in a human lifetime, but were someone to live for one billion years they would "see things changing very dramatically" in the skies above.

Without a reversal in the universe's dark energy-fuelled expansion -- the likelihood of which remains a great scientific puzzle -- Earth's inhabitants would very slowly but surely inch toward nights of deep darkness, he added.

The gas mapping work was started by French astronomer Francoise Combes some years ago at the Institut de Radioastronomie Millimetrique (IRAM), and Braun said Combes -- now at the Observatoire de Paris -- collaborated on his study.



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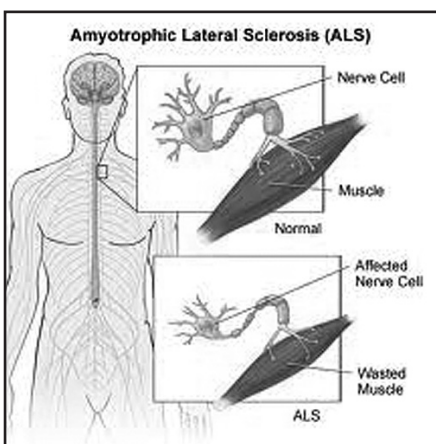
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Health & Living

Common cause seen in all forms of Lou Gehrig disease



PARIS (AFP) - A breakdown in a recycling mechanism in cells in the brain and spinal cord has been pinpointed as the common cause of all forms of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), the tragic neurodegenerative disorder known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

The problem lies in a system that recycles the building blocks of proteins inside neurons, according to the discovery, reported in the journal Nature on Sunday.

The breakdown occurs in hereditary and non-hereditary forms of ALS, as well as a form of the disease that targets the brain, known as ALS/dementia.

More specifically, the finger of blame points at a worker chemical called ubiquitin2, whose job is to help recycle faulty or damaged proteins in the neurons.

When ubiquitin2 does not work, junk parts of proteins build up in the cell, causing it to be badly damaged.

The research "opens up a whole new field for finding an effective treatment for

ALS," said Teepu Siddique, a professor at neurology at Northwestern University in Chicago, in a press release.

"We can now test for drugs that would regulate this protein pathway or optimise it, so (that) it functions as it should."

ALS affects around 350,000 people around the world, many of them young adults in the prime of life.

Patients progressively lose muscle strength, eventually becoming paralysed and unable to speak, move, swallow or breathe. The illness is named after the star US baseball player Lou Gehrig, who died from the disease in 1941.

Saudi donates \$50 million to famine-hit Somalia: WFP

DUBAI (AFP) - Saudi Arabia has donated 50 million dollars to help save children in famine-hit Somalia, the World Food Programme said in a statement received by AFP on Monday.

"The United Nations World Food Programme welcomes a generous contribution of US \$50 million from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia... that will be used to feed more than half a million Somalia children suffering from malnutrition," it said.

The contribution in response to a WFP appeal for funds "will help us save the lives of thousands of children before they fall into severe stages of malnutrition, at which point it would become impossible to keep them

alive," said WFP executive director Josette Sheeran.

The Saudi donation will be specifically used to feed 600,000 children for two months, the statement said.

Somalia has been the worst hit of several countries in East Africa affected by what the United Nations has described as the region's most severe drought in 60 years.

The WFP said it was targeting food assistance to some 1.5 million people in central and northern Somalia and Mogadishu and was ready to try to reach an additional 2.2 million people in southern parts of the country.

But the UN agency warned its Horn of Africa appeal was still \$250 million short.

Health Tip:

Should I Check My Blood Sugar?

While anyone with diabetes is encouraged to check their blood sugar (glucose), frequent checks are more of a necessity for some people.

The American Diabetes Association says the following people should check their blood glucose levels frequently:

- Anyone who uses insulin or medication to treat diabetes.
- People who are undergoing intensive insulin therapy.
- Pregnant women with diabetes.
- Anyone with difficulty regulating blood glucose.
- People who have very low blood glucose or diabetes-related ketones.
- Anyone whose blood glucose tends to drop without warning.



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Monte Verde Residences welcome potential homeowners at first open house



Monte Verde developer Tony Lejuez and RBTT President Edna Farro

Tucked away in a tranquil corner of Aruba is the Monte Verde Residences, offering 5 models of home to buyers on 121 lots spread out over 90,000 sq meters of privately owned land. Developer Tony Lejuez and his staff welcomed dozens of families and their kids on Saturday, August 20 for a fun Open House, replete with Kiddie Castle, snacks and refreshments, and 3 island banks, RBTT, CMB and ArubaBank on hand ready to talk mortgage loans.

Every seat was taken at the bank tables and families explored the possibility of owning a brand new home, custom built to their needs, within 18 months. Monte Verde Residences are located in Sero Biento, which means "Breezy Pointe" in Papiamentu, and the cooling



tradewinds were doing their job.

Plots are sized between 400 sq meters up to 680 sq meters; the Jasmine Model home, which sports 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, sparked great interest among visitors. Developers have

Chavez says he is cancer-free

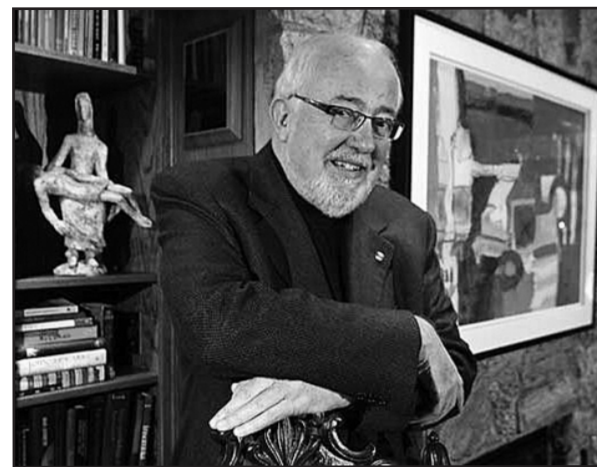
CARACAS -Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who has been battling cancer, reasserted that he is free of the illness during a televised prayer service Sunday and added that Jesus and Cuban leader Fidel Castro are among his "doctors."

Chavez said he no longer feels sick and was recovering from "an illness that I had," state media reported. Chavez has said that he is submitting to further medical treatment as a precaution.

During the ecumenical event, a hundred well-wishers shaved their heads in support of Chavez, who has removed most of his own hair.

Award-winning University of Windsor prof Byron Rourke dies

As a member of the International Neuropsychological Association (INS) and colleague of Professor Dr. Byron Rourke, I am deeply saddened by Professor dr. Rourke's passing away. I have valued him a lot for his Intellect, sense of humor, being the father of the Child Neuropsychology and last but not least for him being straightforward and concise. A golden heart stopped beating, Hardworking hands at rest, God broke our hearts to prove to us that He only takes the best!



On behalf of the Neuropsychological Ambulatory Aruba (NAA) I hereby express our deepest condolences to Carolyn, Phil, Sean, Damon and Bernie and also to our colleagues of the INS especially Prof, dr. Harry van der Vlugt.

As follows this is what the INS has to say about Professor Dr. Byron Rourke:

Professor Byron P. Rourke founded one of the first child neuropsychology assessment laboratories in North America and was responsible for the creation and development of a doctoral training program in clinical neuropsychology at the University of Windsor that has produced a large cadre of superb scientist-practitioners who range all across Canada and the United States. He contributed scientifically in describing the behavioral and socio-emotional context of learning disorders, and he was singularly responsible for the evidence-based, breakthrough development of the concept of non-verbal learning disabilities (NLD).

His contributions are important across the life-span as well as seen, for example, in his studies of brain-injured individuals and investigations regarding the onset of abnormal aging. He lectured widely around the world in his 40 year career as a Professor, and he was appointed University Professor by the University of Windsor in recognition of his embodiment of academic ideals.

Byron was presented the INS Distinguished Career Award for outstanding contributions to the science of neuropsychology, his achievements in clinical practice, and for his educational leadership. In addition, his service to INS on the Governing Board and as its President marked the introduction of program innovations that are foundational in INS meetings today. He also was an early member of INS and constant proponent of the meaningful development of the INS "International" agenda. He was passionate about the preservation of the interdisciplinary nature of the Society, and equally devoted to the important role the INS should play in the development of young careers in neuropsychological science and practice.

Recognized as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, he was the recipient of numerous honours for scientific contributions from national organizations, including the Donald O. Hebb Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology as a Science by the Canadian Psychological Association. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 2008 for his contributions to psychology, notably as a founding father of clinical and child neuropsychology in Canada, and for his pioneering research on nonverbal learning disabilities.

M. C. Y. YANEZ

736-1200 to make an appointment to view the model home and see their art renderings of other models.

by Rosalie Klein

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Prize winner Liszt Concours, top pianist Olga Kozlova will be giving concerts and master classes in Aruba and Curaçao



ORANJESTAD – In the last week of August, winner of the Second Prize of the latest Liszt Concours, Russian pianist Olga Kozlova will be on a concert tour in Aruba and Curacao.

Tickets for the concerts will be available before the

performance at the Cas di Cultura. On Wednesday, August 24, at 8:00 p.m., Miss Kozlova will be giving a recital in the Cas di Cultura in Oranjestad. On the program there are works of Rachmaninov, Prokofiev, Schubert, Wagner and Liszt.

On Thursday, August 25, from 5 to 7 p.m., Miss Kozlova will be conducting masterclasses for students of all piano schools on Aruba. The masterclasses will be held in the Exposition Room at the Cas di Cultura. Participation is free, but participants must announce which piano work they wish to play during the masterclass.

To participate - a notification must be done by calling the following persons: Nelly Aal – tel. nr. 582-3988; Willy Richardson – tel. nr. 583-1681; and Edwin Kock – tel. nr. 584-1016 or by e-mail: arubaartcircle@hotmail.com

Last April Miss Kozlova won the Second Prize and the Prize of the Press at the pres-

tigious international

Fransz Liszt Piano Concours in Utrecht, the Netherlands. As part of her prize, Miss Kozlova embarked on a worldwide tour with concerts in the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Austria and China. She is

studying temporarily at the Conservatory in Moscou and the Prins Claus Conservatory in Groningen

Miss Kozlova was one of the latest students of Dutch pianist Rian de Waal.

The concerts are possible thanks to the cooperation of The Netherlands VNO in Aruba, Curacao and St.

Maarten, The Aruba Art Circle and the Avila Hotel.

It is not the first time a laureate of the Liszt Concours has been invited to give a concert in Aruba and Curaçao. "We had been honored already with the presence of prize winners such as Christiaan Kuyvenhoven and Nino Gvetadze, who gave successful concerts," said a spokesperson for the Aruba Art Circle.

The Liszt Concours, which are held every three years in Vredenburg, Utrecht, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. This year also marks the 200th birthday of famous pianist Fransz Liszt, to whom the concours is dedicated.

Interested person wanting to know more of the Liszt Concours can visit the website www.liszt.nl

To learn more of Olga Kozlova please visit her official website: www.olgakoslova.com



English Class Graduation at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club



The popular resort has periodically been offering English conversation classes to its associates who wish to expand their working knowledge of the language of their guests.

Teacher Jesus Curiel was entrusted with the challenge of expanding everyone's vocabulary in just eight weeks. Students report they enjoyed the learning experience and that they benefited greatly from class assignments and activities.

Among graduates who can

now communicate with greater ease, mastering the English language, standing, Carlos de la Cruz, Virginia de Lange, Adriana Tromp, Armando del Valle, and seated, Juanica Vizcano, Yolanda Boekhoudt, Rocio Velasquez and Marie Bernier.

Rosanne Roy, Associate Relations Manager, La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club reports that Curiel's patience and dedication contributed greatly to his students' high rate of success.

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ACROSS

1. Trajectories
5. Analog albums, for short
8. Bathing suit top
11. Animal cracker shape
12. Kohlrabi kin
13. Sass
14. Card game for one
16. Had a meal
17. Stomach part, familiarly
18. Crowd-drawing destinations
20. Certifies
24. Cartoonist Browne ("Hagar the Horrible")
25. Crow cries

26. "Billy Bathgate" author's monogram
28. Slightly open, as a door
31. Barely manage
32. Norma played by Sally
33. Brown brew
34. Heaven- (opportune)
36. Method: abbr.
37. Battery filler
38. Coat
40. Inspired debate
42. Louisiana swamps
45. Tuscaloosa's st.
46. "Seinfeld" uncle
47. "Jink it" card

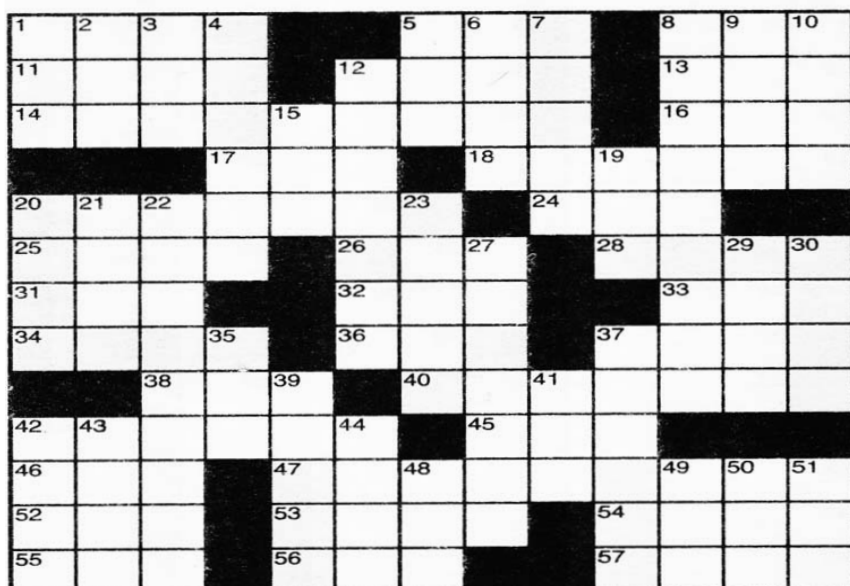
52. Vase's kin
53. Wedding cake layer
54. California politico
55. Fish delicacy
56. Ocean liner: abbr.
57. Toddlers

DOWN

1. Martino and Michaels
2. "Lobo"
3. Mountain pass
4. Criticizes pettily
5. Polynesian necklace
6. Beautician's offering, for short

DEAL ME IN

7. Macnee's signature role
8. Casino card game
9. Rudner of "Peter's Friends"
10. Pongids
12. Stadium swingers
15. "Angela's Ashes" sequel
19. Spy gp.
20. "High" (Malcolm McDowell film)
21. Piece of the pie
22. Alternate name for 8 Down
23. Kills
27. Lost soul's state
29. " of the Mind" (1985 Sam Shepard play)
30. Michael of the NBA
35. " many cooks..."
37. Former PLO boss
39. Wind units
41. Glutton's preferred portion
42. Make fuzzy
43. British aviation prefix
44. and image
48. Poet's "above"
49. UN agency: abbr.
50. Large container
51. USNA grad



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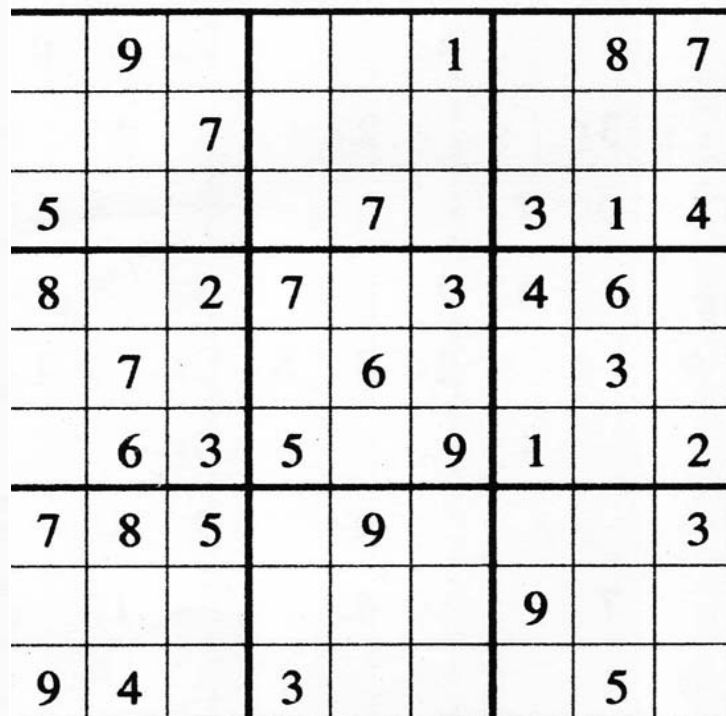
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

1	5	8	2	9	7	6	3	4
8	7	6	5	9	1	3	2	4
5	2	9	7	6	1	8	3	4
2	1	6	8	5	9	7	4	3
3	8	7	9	2	6	1	5	4
6	9	7	1	8	2	5	3	4
7	1	5	9	6	8	2	4	3
9	6	2	5	7	8	1	3	4
4	8	5	1	3	7	9	6	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

US and European stocks advance as Kadhafi end nears

LONDON (AFP) - Stocks rose on Wall Street and in Europe on Monday as investors eyed a quick return of Libyan oil to the market after an imminent defeat of Moamer Kadhafi, while Asian indices were mostly down.

Fears of fresh recession, which recently sent global equities plunging, persisted however and analysts said volatile trading would continue ahead of this week's key economic data and meeting of central bank chiefs.

Gold hit fresh record highs close to \$1,900 an ounce as investors sought out safe-haven investments.

The dollar rose to 76.77 yen from 76.50 yen in New York on Friday, when it hit a post-Second World War low of 75.95 yen. The euro fell to

\$1.4398 on Monday from \$1.4398 Friday.

US stock markets surged at the opening, but later pulled back. Nearing midday the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 0.37 percent to 10,857.98 points.

The broader S&P 500 was down 0.16 percent to 1,121.68 points, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite was nearly flat, climbing 0.07 percent to 2,343.40 points.

Europe's main stock markets rallied in late afternoon trade, but also saw gains narrow and Frankfurt ended with a narrow loss.

Asian stocks closed mostly lower on Monday although they were not down as sharply as last week. Tokyo continued to drop as the strong yen weighed on Japanese ex-

porters.

Markets were meanwhile also looking ahead to German investor confidence data due Tuesday and a US growth update and central bankers' meeting on Friday.

Most European stock markets rebounded on Monday, with London's FTSE 100 climbing 1.08 percent to 5,095.3 points. In Paris, the CAC 40 rose 1.14 percent to 3,051.36 points, while in Frankfurt the DAX ended down slightly, dipping 0.11 percent to 5,473.78 points.

Share prices in oil majors were boosted by plunging Brent crude prices on the prospects of Libyan oil production returning to normal after a rebel advance deep into Tripoli left Kadhafi close to defeat, traders said.



KOLPUR, Pakistan - Local residents watch the burning NATO supply oil tankers following an attack by gunmen on the main highway at Kolpur village, 25 kilometres (15 miles) south of Quetta, the capital of restive Baluchistan province on August 22, 2011. Gunmen on motorbikes in southwestern Pakistan on August 22 set ablaze at least 19 oil tankers carrying fuel for US-led NATO forces in neighbouring Afghanistan, officials said. Local residents meanwhile arrive to collect fuel from the bullet-ridden NATO supply oil tanker.

AFP PHOTO

Sabotage causes Nigeria oil spills, production halt: Shell

LAGOS (AFP) - Sabotage has led to six oil spills from one Shell pipeline in Nigeria since the start of the month, the company said on Monday, while damage to another line has caused a temporary production halt.

The six spills have occurred along the Okordia-Rumuekpe trunk line at Ikarama in Bayelsa State in the oil-producing Niger Delta region, the Anglo-Dutch oil giant said in a statement.

A fire broke out at one of

the spill sites on August 18, but it has since been put out, the company said.

The spills were caused by "hacksaw cuts by unknown persons," it said. The six leaks have been repaired, though an activist has said spilled crude has not been sufficiently cleaned up.

"The 33-kilometre line receives crude oil from two flowstations which were shut down as SPDC worked to repair the leaks," it said. SPDC is Shell's Nigerian joint venture, the Shell Petroleum Development Company.

In a separate incident on Sunday, "another three hacksaw cuts were reported on the nearby Adibawa delivery line. SPDC is mobilising to repair this line and production is shut-in."

"We are concerned by the increasing cases of sabotage at Ikarama and appeal to those causing these incidents to stop for the sake of the environment, their personal safety and well-being of the communities," Shell vice president Tony Attah said in the state-

ment.

Pipeline damage and associated spills are common in the Niger Delta region as a result of oil theft to feed the lucrative black market.

Militants claiming to be fighting for a fairer distribution of oil revenue have also regularly blown up pipelines, though such attacks have decreased since a 2009 amnesty deal.

Shell said in the statement that more than 75 percent of all oil spills and more than 70 percent of oil spilled from its Nigerian joint venture facilities in the Niger Delta from 2006-2010 were caused by sabotage and crude theft.

Activists say oil firms such as Shell have not done enough to prevent such incidents.

A UN report earlier this month said decades of oil pollution in the Ogoniland area of the Niger Delta, located in neighbouring Rivers state, may require the world's largest ever cleanup.

Nigeria is Africa's largest oil producer and the continent's most populous nation.

Venezuela poised to repatriate \$11 bn gold reserves

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela is going to repatriate its gold reserves held overseas "as soon as possible" but has not yet set a date for the operation, the president of the Central Bank of Venezuela said.

Nelson Merentes, the bank president, said late Sunday that the gold bullion would be brought back to Venezuela by air under "a very strict international protocol."

"We are going to transport the reserves as soon as possible. I cannot give a date yet because we are in the middle of putting the process in place," he said.

Venezuela's President

Hugo Chavez last week announced plans to repatriate the 211.35 tons of gold the country has abroad. It is worth an estimated \$11 billion.

About 80 percent of the reserves are held in Britain, principally in the coffers of the Bank of England.

"The objectives are clear: repatriate the gold and protect other assets," Merentes said.

Chavez has also declared his intention to recover some \$6.2 billion in liquid assets or tradeable bonds held by Swiss, British, French and US banks and to transfer them to institutions in "friendly" countries, like China, Russia and Brazil.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

G	A	L	S	T	H	A	T	A	G	T
A	R	I	A	H	I	L	O	L	A	B
L	E	N	T	E	L	O	N	M	S	S
L	A	D	Y	O	F	T	H	E	L	A
L	A	R	V	A	A	R	E	N	A	
				I	L	L	V	A	S	
C	A	N	D	L	E	S	T	I	C	K
A	C	E		A	L	E				
R	A	C	K	S	A	S	S	E	S	
J	A	C	K	O	L	A	N	T	E	R
A	M	I	R	U	N	T	V	I	O	L
D	E	A		R	N	E	E	C	R	U
E	L	S	A	P	E	D	R	A	T	E



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Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger



Cheerful crew in spotless surroundings

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are

made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner – daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner or Manager Marc Anthony when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

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25 years on, 'Graceland' reigns as world music pioneer

WASHINGTON (AFP) - If every generation throws a hero up the pop charts, Paul Simon has been twice anointed, first as a 1960s folk-rock icon, then as world music emissary with "Graceland," the landmark album he released 25 years ago this month.

Stung by a second failed marriage and looking for a way to boost his flagging career, the singer-songwriter holed up at home on Long Island and was contemplating a new direction when a friend gave him a tape of South African "township jive".

A smitten Simon ventured

to South Africa to catch up with the musicians, spending weeks recording with them as a global movement gelled against the racial segregation system known as apartheid.

Then in August, 1986 he stunned the world with what is universally considered his solo masterpiece: 11 eclectic tracks of autobiographical

pop, soulful American R&B, Louisiana zydeco and Chicano rock layered with gorgeous African rhythms and harmonies that catapulted him back into the limelight.

It became the soundtrack to the lives of countless Americans and Europeans, selling 14 million copies, winning album of the year and song of the year Grammy Awards, turning acapella South African group Ladysmith Black Mambazo into superstars and bringing African music in general to a wider world.

It pre-dated today's musical mash-ups, and with the album coming as it did at the dawn of compact discs, and on the cusp of the mobile phone and Internet revolutions, its opening track "The Boy in the Bubble" foretold the future with its hi-tech imagery.

Simon, who turns 70 in October, is among just a handful of artists to make hit records in seven decades, from the late 1950s with friend Art Garfunkel to this year's album "So Beautiful or So What."


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ICC praise 'clinical' England after India sweep



England's captain Andrew Strauss (2nd L) holds the ICC Test Mace, ranking England as the number one Test team, as he poses with his teammates (from L to R) Eoin Morgan, Tim Bresnan, Kevin Pietersen, Stuart Broad, Matt Prior and Graeme Swann after they beat India in the fourth Test (AFP PHOTO)

LONDON (AFP) - International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Haroon Lorgat saluted a "clinical" England after presenting captain Andrew Strauss with the global governing body's mace for the world's top Test side following the hosts' 4-0 rout of India.

England underlined their newly-acquired status at the top of the ICC's Test rankings with an innings and eight-run win over former number one team India at The Oval here on Monday.

"I know England were determined to be number-one and through careful planning and a series of clinical performances, they have deservedly achieved their goal," Lorgat said after the conclusion of the fourth and final Test.

"They were clearly the most consistent side in the world over the past few years as evidenced by their determination to complete their series victory here at The Oval," the South African added.

"This achievement is just reward for the hard work from all the players and team management and the England and Wales Cricket Board and they no doubt will celebrate being on top of the world."

"It was a privilege to be here at The Oval to join a full house to watch another riveting day of Test match cricket."

Strauss added: "We are delighted to be number one in the Reliance ICC Test Rankings and to have achieved

that position with such a comprehensive series success. This has been a real team effort and everyone of the players, management and back up staff deserve great credit.

"Becoming number one in the world was our stated ambition two and a half years ago and even though we have achieved that objective we will continue to look to build on this success."

England are only the fourth team after Australia, South Africa and India to achieve the number-one position in the Test rankings table.

They had already secured top spot after taking an unbeatable 3-0 lead with an innings and 242 run victory against India in the third Test at Edgbaston.

But victory at The Oval extended their advantage and also dropped India into third place on 117 ratings points,

behind second-placed South Africa.

The Test table will next be updated at the end of the Sri Lanka-Australia series which starts in Galle on August 31.

The side that tops the Test Championship table on April 1 each year collects \$175,000 for doing so while the second-placed side receives \$75,000.

ICC Test Championship table (as of August 22, after the conclusion of the four-Test series between England and India):

1. England 125 rating points
2. South Africa 118
3. India 117
4. Sri Lanka 108
5. Australia 100
6. Pakistan 93
7. West Indies 89
8. New Zealand 78
9. Bangladesh 8

Note: Zimbabwe will have to play eight Tests before it will have a ranking

Romario: World Cup only for the rich


SAO PAULO (AFP) - Former Brazil star Romario said recently he believed the upcoming World Cup in his homeland would not engage normal Brazilians but be an event only for those with money.

For the former striker, who tasted glory in 1994 with the Selecao, well-off people would get to enjoy the event and those coming in from abroad would also enjoy the competition.

But the less well-off would not be so fortunate, Romario told RedeTV, "Ticket (prices) will be ab-

surd. So unfortunately the World Cup will not be for the Brazilian people. Brazilian people who like football, follow it passionately on a day-to-basis, are mainly from the C, D and E (social) classes," Romario stated.

Earlier this year, amid fears that Brazil's infrastructure will not be ready in time with massive upgrades of transport and also stadiums - most notably the Maracana - required, Romario said he believed the country would struggle to stage one of the best ever tournaments.



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Malinga sets hat-trick record as Sri Lanka win

COLOMBO (AFP) - Fast bowler Lasith Malinga took a record third hat-trick as Sri Lanka secured a consolation four-wicket victory over Australia in the fifth and final one-day international on Monday.

Malinga removed Mitchell Johnson, John Hastings and Xavier Doherty to become the first bowler to take three hat-tricks in one-dayers as Sri Lanka dismissed Australia for 211 before achieving the target with three overs to spare.

Paceman James Pattinson and left-arm spinner Doherty bagged two wickets each for Australia, who clinched the series 3-2.

"We performed well today and the bowlers put in a fantastic effort," said Sri Lanka captain Tillakaratne Dilshan.

"The middle order then did the job for us. Chamara Silva batted really well and his partnership with (Mahela) Jayawardene set up the win."

Australia, who had an unbeatable 3-1 lead before the match, were comfortably placed at 210-5 before losing their last five wickets for just one run, with Malinga doing the maximum damage to finish with 3-35 off eight overs.

Man-of-the-match Ma-

linga, known for bowling accurate yorkers with a slinging action, had previously taken hat-tricks in two World Cups -- against South Africa in 2007 and Kenya in 2011.

Sri Lanka's batsmen stuttered to 33-3 at the start of their innings with Pattinson taking two wickets in his opening spell, but Jayawardene (71) and Silva (63) put on 111 for the fourth wicket to prop up the innings.

Silva, who hit one six and eight fours in his 71-ball knock, was dismissed just before rain stopped play but Jayawardene and Angelo Mathews (26) ensured win when the game resumed with a 51-run stand for the fifth wicket.

Malinga was earlier superbly supported by unorthodox spinner Ajantha Mendis (3-49) and seamer Shaminda Eranga (2-45).

"It was disappointing how today went, but there is still a long way to go," said Australia skipper Michael Clarke, who was named man of the series.

"We want to win every game we play and we have got some work to do in preparation for the Tests. The Test guys have been here for a week and working hard."

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Beauty and the Beast staffers loved playing beach tennis



Beauty and the Beast staffers Amparo, Bernarda, Ingrid, Claudette, Rosita, Popi and Evadne absolutely loved learning how to play beach tennis last Friday afternoon at MooMba Beach.

And they were really good too, although it was the first time they ever held a paddle racquet in their hands.

ner was served at MooMba Beach. As the focus lay on playing sports, it was healthy fare: a lovely Caesar salad with shrimps, beef and chicken strips. When coffee was served, the ladies sang a rousing 'Happy Birthday' for their colleague Bernarda, who celebrated her birthday. Pabien!



Expert teacher Sjoerd de Vries taught them the tricks of the trade: how to hold their paddles, how to serve and how to run forward right after serving to be able to hit the return ball. The sales ladies had a blast!

After their exertions the thirsty group had a few well-deserved drinks and then din-

Beauty and the Beast is selling costume jewelry and silver; its locations are at Tamarijn Resort, the Village, Arawak Garden and MooMba Beach, where the store doubles as a beach tennis store, renting and selling racquets. Unfortunately super salesladies Chibi and Regina could not attend.

Colombians confirm coach quitting after assault

BOGOTA (AFP) - The Colombian Football Federation on Monday confirmed coach Hernan Dario Gomez was quitting his post amid a furore sparked by his hitting a woman who insulted him in a bar.

Gomez had already offered to resign on August 9 after reports emerged of his striking a woman outside a bar but several players urged him to reconsider, criticising his behaviour while offering their support in an open letter.

A Federation statement indicated that Gomez was "irrevocably" confirming his initial decision to stand down.

After news of his contretemps with his critic first emerged Gomez said he felt "mortified" and offered a profuse apology for his assault.

He added his action "shames me in front of my mother, my wife and every single woman in my family and in my country."

Players offered support and said they were ready to act as "standard bearers for the cause of non-violence against women."

Gomez, who in the past month had been working as an observer for FIFA at the under-20 World Cup in his homeland, led Colombia to the quarter-finals of the recent Copa America, where they lost to Peru, and also took Ecuador to the World Cup finals for the first time in their history in 2002.

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Real-Barca tension threatens Spain squad

MADRID (AFP) - Hostility that boiled over on-pitch between Real Madrid and Barcelona last week threatens to undermine the Spanish national squad ahead of the Euro 2012 championship, Malaga and Spain midfielder Santiago Cazorla warned Monday.

"The situation in the national squad is tense. However much we want to avoid it, these cup competitions have an influence on relations," he was quoted as saying.

Wednesday's second-leg Supercopa clash between the arch-rivals in Barcelona degenerated into a scuffle between rival players and staff, with Real Madrid's manager Jose Mourinho poking a Barcelona assistant coach in the eye.

It was the latest eruption in recent seasons of tense relations between the historic rivals, whose players formed the bulk of Spain's winning team at the World Cup in South Africa last year.

MLB Standings

American League					National League				
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB
NY YANKEES	77	48	.616	--	PHILADELPHIA	81	44	.648	--
BOSTON	77	49	.611	0.5	ATLANTA	76	52	.594	6.5
TAMPA	69	56	.552	8.0	WASHINGTON	61	64	.488	20.0
TORONTO	65	62	.512	13.0	NY METS	60	66	.476	21.5
BALTIMORE	47	77	.379	29.5	FLORIDA	57	70	.449	25.0
Central					Central				
DETROIT	68	58	.540	--	MILWAUKEE	76	52	.594	--
CLEVELAND	62	61	.504	4.5	ST. LOUIS	67	60	.528	8.5
CHICAGO	63	63	.500	5.0	CINCINNATI	62	65	.488	13.5
MINNESOTA	55	71	.437	13	PITTSBURG	59	66	.472	15.5
KANSAS	52	76	.406	17	CHICAGO	56	71	.441	19.5
West					West				
TEXAS	73	55	.570	--	ARIZONA	69	58	.543	--
LA ANGELES	69	59	.539	4.0	SAN FRANCISCO	68	60	.531	1.5
OAKLAND	57	70	.449	15.5	COLORADO	60	68	.469	9.5
SEATTLE	53	72	.424	18.5	SAN DIEGO	59	70	.457	11.0
					LA DODGERS	57	69	.452	11.5

Pettersen downs Choi in LPGA playoff

Norway's Suzann Pettersen overcame a nine-stroke deficit then defeated South Korean Na Yeon Choi at the first playoff hole Sunday to win the LPGA Safeway Classic. Pettersen started the final round of the 54-hole tournament nine off the overnight lead held by Choi but carded a seven-under par 64 for a total of 207.

Choi, who could have won with a par at the final hole of regulation play, closed with a bogey for a two-over 73 that also left her on six-under 207.

They returned to the par-four 18th for the playoff, and Choi's second shot went into the water right of the green. She missed a bogey putt be-



fore Pettersen drained her winning shot. Pettersen, who won the Ladies' European Tour's Ladies Irish Open at

Killeen Castle on August 7, captured her second LPGA title of the year and her eighth overall.



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Spanish players extend strike

MADRID (AFP) - Spanish league footballers will extend their strike over pay to the second day of the new season next weekend, the players' professional association said Monday.

"The strike will continue for the second day of the season," Luis Gil, spokesman for the Association of Spanish Footballers (AFE), said after the latest negotiations at the AFE's headquarters.

Spain's top football clubs had been meeting with players to prevent the strike spreading to a second match day in the lucrative Primera Liga.

Players in the first and second divisions -- including stars such as Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo --

went on strike on the first match day Saturday and delayed the season start for the first time in 27 years.

The AFE is demanding a wage guarantee and that players be allowed to break their contracts if they are not paid for three consecutive months, a proposal rejected by the league.

According to the AFE, 200 players in the top two divisions have not been fully paid by cash-strapped clubs, some in bankruptcy protection, and are owed a total of about 50 million euros (\$72 million).

It is not clear if the league will try to squeeze missed matches into an already packed schedule or just scrap them.

Golf world rankings

LONDON (AFP) - Tiger Woods has fallen further in the latest golf world rankings and is now down in 35th place.

Woods ended three months of inactivity due to injury earlier this month but he failed to make the cut at the year's final major, the USPGA Championship, and has also failed to qualify for the FedEx Cup playoffs.

England's Luke Donald continues to lead the way ahead of compatriot Lee Westwood with Steve Stricker of the United States in third place.

World top 20:-

1. Luke Donald (ENG) 10.17pts
2. Lee Westwood (ENG) 8.30



3. Steve Stricker (USA) 6.93
4. Martin Kaymer (GER) 6.86
5. Rory McIlroy (NIR) 6.81
6. Phil Mickelson (USA) 5.86
7. Adam Scott (AUS) 5.86

8. Jason Day (AUS) 5.56
9. Dustin Johnson (USA) 5.47
10. Nick Watney (USA) 5.33
11. Charl Schwartzel (RSA) 5.21
12. Matt Kuchar (USA) 5.16
13. Graeme McDowell (NIR) 4.85
14. KJ Choi (KOR) 4.75
15. Bubba Watson (USA) 4.69
16. David Toms (USA) 4.17
17. Ian Poulter (ENG) 4.11
18. Paul Casey (ENG) 4.09
19. Robert Karlsson (SWE) 3.99
20. Kim Kyung-tae (KOR) 3.83

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